

Günther Bender
Serial No.: 10/725,775
Amdt. dated July , 2006
Reply to Office Action of 04/05/06

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to because the content included the use of already implied language, i.e. according to the invention. Correction was required. Accordingly a new abstract is presented on a separate page.

Claims 13, 15-18 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by David 4,790,775 on the grounds set forth in the Office Action. Claims 14 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over David in view of Lockard 4,682,840 for the reasons stated in the Office Action.

The independent claims are amended to distinguish the invention from the teachings of the cited art. The amendment is believed to overcome the foregoing rejections in view of the following argument.

By simply comparing Fig. 6 of David 4,790,775 with the drawing of the present application, it is clear that these drawings show different devices. Thus, claims 13 and 18 are not being anticipated by David. First, from the language of the claims, it is clear that at least one contact partner, before latching the two contact partners together, already is being surrounded by a

plug housing. David only discloses a separate housing which acts to protect and position the joined contact pairs, but does not participate in the process of joining a pair of contacts, such as by leading one contact via a guide to the other contact. Further, it is clear from the language of claims 13 and 18 that the latching means operate with the contact partners during the leading of one contact to the other, but is not part of a bottom of a housing as shown by David for holding already connected contacts.

In claims 13 and 18, it is clearly said that the latching means form a plug-in electrical connection in that plug housing. There can't be any doubt that in accordance with claims 13 and 18, after the first step of the method for producing the electrical connection, one has already achieved an electrical plug-in connection surrounded by the plug housing associated to at least one of the two contact partners. Such a first method step simply does not exist in the connection disclosed by David. It is noted that the first step according to David simply consists in a loose arrangement of one contact partner on the other without anyone of the two contact partners having something like a plug housing.

Then, in a following step, David teaches one to laser weld the two partners through an opening in one of the contact partners but not through an opening in a plug housing because, as is clearly shown in Fig. 5 and 6, while producing the electrical connection no plug housing is present. Only in a final step after having welded the two contact partners, but without having them first plug-in connected by latching means, a housing is

mounted to surround the contact partners and to form a plug. The order of the method steps is clearly described in lines 4 to 9 in column 3 of David, and differs significantly from the recitation of the present claims.


The front block, which is made of moulded plastic or the like may show latching means (Fig. 2B David) but this has nothing to do with an electrical connection of the two contact partners.

In the event there are further issues remaining in any respect the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone attorney to reach agreement to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentable and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this amendment is believed to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, enter this amendment, and to allow all of the claims in this case.

Respectfully submitted
Günther Bender

by: 
MARTIN A. FARBER
Attorney for Applicant
Registered Representative
Registration No.: 22,345